

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-30. (canceled)

Claim 31. (new) An encoding system for encoding input video data, comprising:

counting means for counting fields in the input video data having a particular frame frequency;

converting means for converting the input video data having said particular frame frequency into video data with a second frame frequency;

encoding means for encoding the converted video data to generate an elementary stream and describing, in said elementary stream, picture order information about a picture order of said elementary stream; said encoding means generating said picture order information based on the fields counted in said counting means; said picture order information including a presentation time stamp count and a decoding time stamp count; and

a packetizer for packetizing said elementary stream and generating time stamp information about said elementary stream based on said picture order information described in said elementary stream.

Claim 32. (new) The encoding system according to claim 31, wherein said encoding means describes said picture order information in a picture layer of said elementary stream.

Claim 33. (new) The encoding system according to claim 31, wherein said packetizer extracts said picture order information from said elementary stream by parsing the syntax of said elementary stream.

Claim 34. (new) The encoding system according to claim 31, wherein said time stamp information comprises presentation time stamps and decoding time stamps.

Claim 35. (new) The encoding system according to claim 31, wherein said packetizer adds said time stamp information to a header of said packetized elementary stream.

Claim 36. (new) The encoding system according to claim 31, wherein said particular frame frequency is a 30-Hz frame frequency generated by a 3:2 pull-down process performed on source video data with a second frame frequency of 24-Hz.

Claim 37. (new) A method of encoding input video data, comprising the steps of:
counting fields in the input video data having a particular frame frequency;
converting the input video data having said particular frame frequency into video data with a second frame frequency;
encoding the converted video data to generate an elementary stream;
describing, in said elementary stream, picture order information about a picture order of said elementary stream;

generating said picture order information based on the counted fields; said picture order information including a presentation time stamp count and a decoding time stamp count; and

packetizing said elementary stream and generating time stamp information about said elementary stream based on said picture order information described in said elementary stream.